

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W
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R 051010Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9392

UNCLAS RABAT 4233

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC MO (BENBARKA, BRAHIM)

SUBJECT: FY76 IV GRANTEE BRAHIM BENBARKA

REF: STATE 190219

1. BENBARKA AGREED, IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT TOOK PLACE BEFORE ARRIVAL OF REFTEL, TO BEGIN TRAVEL ON 29 AUGUST. HE HAS NOW LEFT MOROCCO ON VACATION AND CANNOT BE CONTACTED UNTIL HE RETURNS O/A 15 AUGUST.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES HE MAY ACCEPT 22 AUGUST DEPARTURE AND PROGRAM COMMENCEMENT THE FOLLOWING DAY, BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO ASSURE IT; SINCE HIS LEAVE PLUS IV SCHEDULE APPROVED BY MINISTER ON BASIS AUGUST 29 DEPARTURE.

3. EMBASSY WILL CONTACT BENBARKA ASAP, PROPOSE EARLIER TRAVEL AND ADVISE DEPARTMENT. MEANWHILE, WE CAN ONLY PROCEED ON THE ASSUMPTION HE WILL ACCEPT; IF WASHINGTON ABSOLUTELY UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE LATER PROGRAMMING.

4. BORN OCTOBER 1939 IN RABAT, MOROCCAN CITIZEN. ADDRESS IS 17 AVENUE ABDA, AVATION, RABAT, MOROCCO. MARRIED WITH THREE DAUGHTERS. OBTAINED B.A. EQUIVALENT IN DAMASCUS, M.A. IN CAIRO AND A DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM UNIVERSITY AT BORDEAUX, FRANCE. HAS - OCCUPIED PRESENT POSITION AS CHIEF OF CABINET AT PLANNING MINISTRY FOR TEN YEARS; PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN SAME MINISTRY AS HEAD OF STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND LATER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DIVISION. MEMBER MOROCCAN ASSN OF STATISTICIANS, SOON TO PUBLISH
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(IN ARABIC) BOOK ON PLANNING IN MOROCCO. HAS TRAVELED

EXTENSIVELY EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

5. BENBARKA IS MOSLEM AND STANDARD DIETARY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. HE HAS VIRTUALLY NO KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH AND WILL REQUIRE AN ESCORT INTERPRETER WHO HE WOULD PREFER BE FLUENT IN ARABIC THOUGH HE CAN ACCEPT A FRENCH SPEAKING INTERPRETER.

6. BENBARKA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIS WIFE JOIN HIM TOWARD THE END OF HIS THIRTY DAY SOJORN AND FOR THIS REASON REQUESTS THAT HE BE PROGRAMMED ON THE EAST COAST DURING THE FINAL TEN DAYS. A SECOND VISIT TO WASHINGTON WOULD BE WELCOMED, AND PROGRAMMING IN PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK AT THAT TIME WOULD SUIT HIM.

7. PROGRAM: IN WASHINGTON THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, INCLUDING THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, THE CENSUS BUREAU, THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS, AND THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. TOURISM SHOULD INCLUDE THE PRINCIPAL MUSEUMS, THE WHITE HOUSE AND AN EVENING AT KENNEDY CENTER.

8. BENBARKA WOULD WELCOME A VISIT TO THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH IN BALTIMORE. IN PHILADELPHIA HE SHOULD SEE THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMICS DEPT AND THE WHARTON SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN ECONOMICS MODEL BUILDING.

9. THE BOSTON STOP SHOULD INCLUDE MIT, HARVARD, AND THE A.D. LITTLE COMPANY (WHICH DOES BUSINESS WITH MOROCCO), AND SEE THE GARDNER MUSEUM.

10. PUERTO RICO, AS EXAMPLE OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE ITINERARY; THE ISLAND'S TOURISM AND AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES ARE OF INTEREST ALSO.

11. FLORIDA'S CATTLE AND CITRUS INDUSTRIES, ITS TOURISM, INCLUDING DISNEYWORLD, AND CAPE CANAVERAL IF A LAUNCH IS CONVENIENTLY SCHEDULED

12. A CHICAGO STOP WOULD INCLUDE A VISIT TO THE MERCHANDISE MART, THE COMMODITIES EXCHANGE AND A MAJOR FOOD PROCESSOR SUCH AS GENERAL FOODS.

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13. IN CALIFORNIA HE SHOULD SEE THE STANFORD RESEARCH CENTER, THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT DAVIS AND A NATIONAL PARK.

14. BENBARKA WOULD ENJOY A SPORTS EVENT AT SOME POINT IN HIS ITINERARY. ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RABAT04233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760301-1428
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760883/aaaacvk.v.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 190219
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JAN 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2005 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY76 IV GRANTEE BRAHIM BENBARKA
TAGS: OEXC, MO, (BENBARKA, BRAHIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006